

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ER 11 - 7756/A

27 September 1959

↓ *card*
Mr. Clarence L. Johnson
Vice President
Advanced Development Projects
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation
Burbank, California

Dear Kelly:

I sincerely appreciated your letter of September 15, 1959. I have followed the developments referred to in your letter and I look forward to the fullest cooperation with you in the new and important enterprise which we are jointly undertaking.

I also share your views about Dick. If you know of any more like him that want a job, I am always in the market. I know that you get to Washington from time to time and sincerely hope you will let me know when you are next here.

Sincerely,

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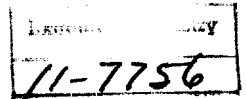
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LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

September 15, 1959

PERSONAL

Mr. Allan W. Dulles
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
United States Government
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I have not had the opportunity to thank you on behalf of Lockheed for placing with us another assignment of a very interesting nature. Over the past year and a half we have been engaged in a very interesting and tough competition with another aircraft manufacturer. There have been times when I have been forced to honest technical conclusions which have been questioned by some of your evaluation group, but I am sure that the discussions which these beliefs provoked have been of great benefit to both of us in trying to grab hold of a very difficult technical problem.

I want to assure you of Lockheed's determination and promise to undertake this new assignment in the expectation of meeting all of our commitments and of exceeding them, not only in over-all performance and range, but also in the more involved and difficult field of another nature. We go into the program with great confidence, buoyed up by the faith you and the others who made the decision have indicated in us.

I could not close this letter without expressing my very high regard for Mr. Richard Bissell, with whom we have worked for a number of years now. Throughout our very complex evaluation he has always been most fair and helpful, and I deeply appreciate the great problems and pressures he was subjected to in choosing between various technical approaches made by both competitors. I know how close we came to losing this assignment a number of times, but I know in all cases it was a question only of technical merit that was influencing Dick. The country could well use a few dozen more like him.

Mr. Allan W. Dulles

15 September 1959

We do not underestimate the character of our new assignment, which I believe to be at least ten times as hard as any we have ever undertaken before. We are, however, by no means perturbed about this situation and are going forward most enthusiastically.

With highest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly", written over the printed name "Clarence L. Johnson".

Clarence L. Johnson

Vice President

Advanced Development Projects

CLJ:vmp